

MELKSHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the Melksham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Knee, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit this, my Twenty-eighth Annual Report on the state of the Public Health in the Melksham Urban District.

The Report is compiled and arranged in accordance with Circular 170/47 (England) of the Ministry of Health.

GENERAL.

Area - 1,042 acres

Estimated Population - 6,491

Rateable value - £36,053

Sum represented by a Penny Rate - £155

BIRTHS.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Legitimate	72	44	116
Illegitimate	1	5	6
	<u>73</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>122</u>

Birth Rate - 18.79

Birth Rate for England and Wales - 20.50

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>

Still Birth Rate - 0.15

Still Birth Rate for England and Wales - 0.99

DEATHS.

The total deaths for the year under review were - 57

This gave a Death Rate of - 8.78

The Death Rate for England and Wales was - 12.00

The causes of death, analysed on the Registrar-General's classifications, are given in the following table -

Tuberculosis	1
Influenza	2
Cancer (all forms)	7
Intracranial lesions	4
Heart diseases	16
Circulatory diseases	2
Bronchitis	5
Pneumonia	3
Digestive diseases	1
Nephritis	2
Premature Birth	2
Suicide	1
Other causes	11
	<u>57</u>

Yet again I am pleased to point out that no death from puerperal sepsis or other puerperal cause took place during this year, a fact to which I draw your attention with considerable satisfaction.

The only death from Infectious Diseases during 1947 was the one case of tuberculosis.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>

Death Rates.

1. All infants, per 1,000 live births - 32
For England and Wales - 41
2. Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births - 34
3. Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births - NIL

Once again these statistics show that there is no unusual or excessive mortality which requires comment from me.

HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.Ambulance Facilities.

Ambulance facilities remained during 1947 as they were in 1946. The Melksham Hospital Ambulance continued to operate within its 24 mile radius with the unfailing assistance of the local St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

During the year 181 journeys were made, covering a total of 2,485 miles.

The Avon India Rubber Company continued to maintain their own ambulance, and infectious cases were removed by the county ambulance from Trowbridge Isolation Hospital.

Hospitals.

Melksham Hospital in Spa Road remained with 42 beds. It continued to be staffed by the local practitioners, and the consultants in medicine, surgery and ophthalmology from Bath. The Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon from Bristol was also available throughout the year.

The very close liaison with the Royal United Hospital Bath and its consultants was maintained, as also was the arrangement that all cases requiring specialist investigation and treatment should be treated at that Hospital.

Both these are voluntary Hospitals.

Immunisation.

This work is carried out by the County Council's staff and the figures for Melksham Urban District are set out below. The proportion of school children and children under five immunised against diphtheria was approximately 76%.

The table gives the number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.

Age at 31/12/47. i.e. born in year	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5 to 9 1938-42	10-14 1933-37	Total under 15
Number immunised	-	58	58	67	111	410	368	1072
Estimated Mid-year population 1947	550					864		1414

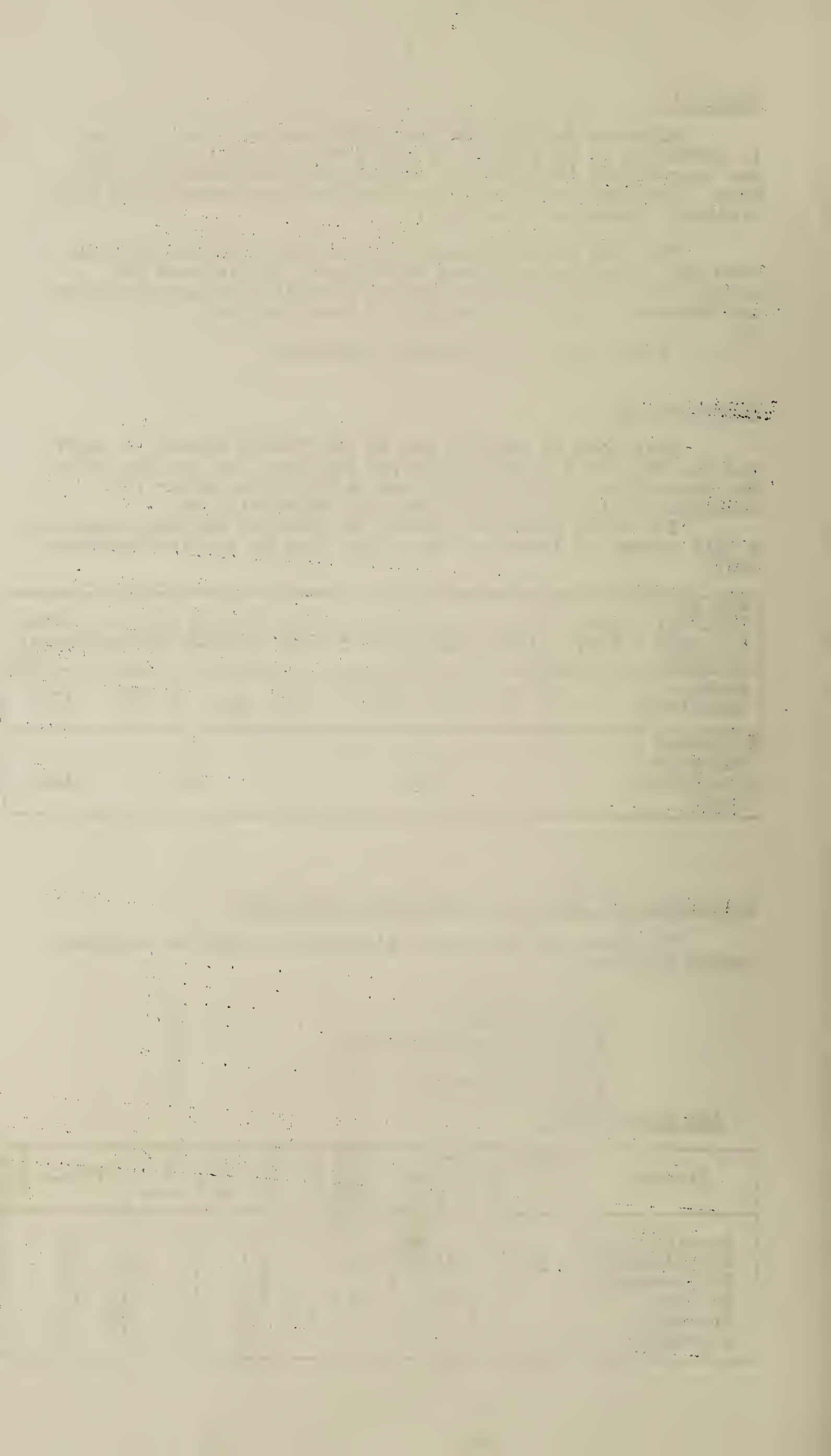
Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

The cases of Infectious Diseases notified in Melksham during 1947 were -

Scarlet fever	1
Whooping cough	48
Acute poliomyelitis	1
Measles	71
Acute pneumonia	2
Erysipelas	2

Age group table.

Disease	Under 1 yr.	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 & over	Totals
Scarlet fever				1						1
Whoopingcough	3	7	11	25	1		1			48
Polioenceph.							1			1
Measles		5	17	43	5		1			71
Pneumonia				1		1				2
Erysipelas				1					1	2



Tuberculosis.

An analysis of the new cases notified during the year are set out below.

Ages	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -				
1 -				
5 -	1			
15 -		2		
25 -		1		1
35 -				
45 -	1			
55 -	2			1
65 & over				
Totals	4	3	-	2

The single death from tuberculosis in 1947 was a pulmonary male in the 45-55 age group.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.Water.

The water supply throughout the area was generally satisfactory in quantity and quality. Arrangements were made in the latter part of the year to improve pressures in some areas, with satisfactory results.

The whole of the water, which is supplied by the Trowbridge, Melksham and District Water Board, is examined chemically and bacteriologically at frequent intervals, and is chlorinated at the pumping station. I have no fault to find with these arrangements.

The water is not plumbo-solvent, and no action was necessary at any time during the year in respect of any form of contamination.

The number of houses supplied direct is 1,744 serving a population of 6,267 and by standpipe 60 houses with an approximate population of 224.

Sewerage.

The schemes for enlarging the sewage disposal works and for effecting essential modernisations were carried on through the year by the Council's Engineer & Surveyor and his staff.

Contact between him and the Ministry of Health was maintained and substantial progress made. The preliminaries and preparations of these comprehensive schemes necessarily involved a great deal of slow and painstaking work, and considering the mass of intricate technical detail involved I feel that the progress made was a cause of some satisfaction.

Of necessity this work will stretch into 1948 and 1949 and the reports for those years will indicate the progress maintained during the periods.

Refuse Collection.

The collection and disposal of refuse and salvage continued to be satisfactory, and a pleasing feature is the absence of accumulations of refuse following holiday periods or during bad weather.

Disposal remains by controlled tipping, and I feel that both the collection and disposal is maintained efficiently.

FACTORY INSPECTIONS.

1. Inspections made for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authority	21	6	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies.				
(a)	20	15	2	-
(b) Others	5	10	-	-
(iii) Other premises under the Act.	3	12	-	-
Total	49	43	2	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	2
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-
Total	4	4	-	2

Outwork.

The number of out-workers in the August list required by section 110 was 5; all concerned in the making of wearing apparel (gloves).

No formal action under section 110 or section 111 was necessary.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.Milk Supplies.

The milk factories are periodically inspected by myself and the Sanitary Inspector; they are well maintained.

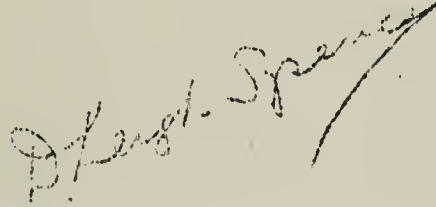
One license is granted to pasteurise raw milk and one to pasteurise Tuberculin Tested milk.

The number of dairy farms in the area remained eighteen, and arrangements for the production of Tuberculin Tested and Accredited milks were the same as in previous years.

Food Supplies.

Meat is inspected at the central slaughterhouse at Trowbridge and also by your Sanitary Inspector here.

Bakehouses continue to be maintained in the highly satisfactory manner to which I am accustomed.



Medical Officer of Health.

